

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided on February 1, 2005.

The proposed amendments are presented under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and in regard to claims 4, 5, and 8, the amendments merely put these claims in independent form and eliminate language informalities. Therefore, the present amendments are not believed to require undue consideration or further search by the Examiner. Thus, entry to the proposed amendments is believed to be proper and is hereby requested.

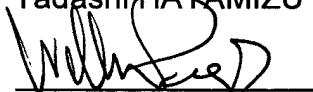
Upon entry of the above amendments, claim 3 will have been canceled, and claims 4, 5, and 8 will have been amended. Therefore, claims 1, 2, and 4-20 are currently pending. Further, due to the above amendments, claims 4, 5, and 8 will include allowable subject matter which was indicated by the Examiner (see page 3 of the Official Action dated on February 1, 2005). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejection, objection, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendments, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

P24176.A05

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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